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.... Local News

15th April 2010

HELPING HANDS

Sherlana Ernest



(Photo) Klakring Crew, Sandals team and representatives from the Micoud Preschool.

Though it was not February 14, or any such special occasion, the Sandals team felt it as good a time as any to spread love and give to those in need. For such an extreme and selfless effort, it seemed that even the sun shone in their favour. Last Tuesday, at the Pointe Seraphine, Sandals Regency in tandem with US Navy made official donations to the Victoria Hospital, and the Micoud Community Preschool.

Present at the ceremony were Director of aid of the US Embassy in Barbados, James Goggin, General Manager of Sandals Regency, Michael James, Commander of the USS Klakring Scott Smith, Executive Director of Victoria Hospital, Jenny Fevrier, and Teacher of Micoud Community Preschool, Mary Clercent.

In addition to the donations of books and other necessities, it was announced that the Micoud Community Preschool, a school adopted by Sandals Regency, would be renovated with the help of sailors of the US Navy, USS Klakring (FFG 42) and US Peace corps, currently stationed in St. Lucia.

Public relations Manager of Sandals Resorts International, Chantal Antoine,

present on the site of the renovation, explained to The VOICE, "It is mandatory that each Sandals Resort adopt a school. We help with minor renovations and in any other way that we can."

She further remarked that, "Sandals foundation, launched this year, raised up to \$65, 000 and generously gave to The Children's Literacy Action programme, a charity based in Marchand. There, we will be assisting with the help of the US Army. We are hoping to finish a resource center in the heart of Marchand. This we think will be beneficial to many children in that area. It is our goal to have the resource center completed this year."

* * *

The Commander and crew of the USS Klakring, docked at Pointe Seraphine, were proud to lend a helping hand, along side Sandals Regency. Their goal was one to aid and donate to a needy institution, the Micoud Community Preschool. And in a moving scene of all hands being on deck, issues including difference in skin color were forgotten as cultures mingled and stories were shared on the site of the renovation.

Antoine said, "This is all in part of Sandals mobilizing and going out to help the communities that serve us and whom we serve. We believe in sustainability. We hope to influence as many lives as possible within the community. We focus on educational projects, as well as community-based and environmental projects. These we feel are the most important elements in the communities, for sustainable development."

Sabby John, Principal of the Micoud Community Preschool, said she is very grateful for the aid, and looks forward to expressions of glee on the faces on the students when school reopens on Monday. While for a parent like Michelle Joseph, it is comforting to know that her daughters, Terchelle and Mekeige, are properly educated with the support of the teachers and now-fixed adequate facilities.

The recent refurbishing of the Micoud Community Preschool, should not be deemed just an aesthetic improvement but also, a reaffirmation that education should be a priority. Thanks to Sandals Foundation and USAID, the youngsters from Micoud are being given the chance of proper conditions for better learning.
